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Biparjoy cyclone may hit Ketu Bandar at 1100 hours today

PM directs relocation of over 50,000 people from coastal areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said the very severe cyclonic storm BIPARJOY of Category-3 landfall was predicted to take place at around 1100 hours on Thursday which was earlier forecast in the evening of June 15th due to the evolving nature of the cyclone.

Addressing a joint news conference flanked by Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, the federal minister for climate change briefed the media persons on the latest situation of the Tropical Cyclone BIPARJOY.

Senator Rehman said the intensity of the cyclone was to increase amid near-

ing the shore of Ketu Bandar and Indian Gujarat while embracing its landfall. "We are trying to evacuate masses to safer places and it's the only remedy related to cyclones in the world. The accompanied activities along with the cyclone can put people's lives at risk," she added.

The Minister added that it was the second media briefing at the NDMA and was aimed at providing important updates to the masses through the media. BIPARJOY, she said had achieved the intensity of a very severe cyclonic storm of Category-3 which was massive after the cyclone that hit the country's coastline after 1999.

"The radius of the cyclone appears to be greater than the previous one of 1999," the minister said. Senator Rehman



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman briefs to media persons about Cyclone Biparjoy during a press conference at NDMA.

added that there was confusion prevailing among the masses whereas the government would like to give this assurance to the masses that Pakistan Army, Rangers, Five Corps, district administrations, provincial and district disaster management authorities (PDMA and DDMA res-

spectively) and others were working together whereas the NDMA was leading the coordinated effort.

She informed that the Prime Minister had created a committee under her convener to supervise the coordinated effort to tackle the cyclone risks. "With the blessing of

Almighty Allah, we have managed it well so far. However, we will get the most latest intensity of the cyclone tomorrow (Thursday). Our job is to take all equipment and installations in place for better preparedness and disaster management," Senator Sherry Rehman added.

She mentioned that the cyclone was proceeding at a speed of 150-160 km/h and wind gusts were blowing at a pace of 180km/h.

The more eastward direction of the cyclone could prevent Pakistan from more damages and disastrous impacts, she said.

The Minister underlined that the cyclone was at 370 km distance from Karachi and 290 km from Ketu Bandar and was near Sir Creek.



KARACHI: Officials placing red flag after alerts issued by the authorities regarding the effects of cyclone "Biparjoy" at the Hawksbay Beach.

Political stability, key to economic strength, development, prosperity: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that political stability was highly important to achieve economic strength, attract investment, and ensure development and prosperity in the country.

"Until there is no political stability, there would not be any economic stability as both are interlinked with each other," he said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the rehabilitated and widened Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road (previously known as IJ Principal Road).

Shehbaz Sharif said in a situation where there was political instability in the country, the political opponents were hatching conspiracies everywhere, spreading false propaganda and misleading the nation; nobody would be ready to

invest in the country.

Putting the responsibility of current economic crisis on the previous government, the prime minister said it breached its own agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to which the confidence of the Fund in Pakistan shattered and it was now hesitant to resume its agreement.

However, he said the current government had met all the conditions of the IMF and hoped that the programme would resume anytime soon.

PM Shehbaz resolved that "under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, we all together would bring the country out of all crises and make it a stable and developed Pakistan."

He said the previous government had ignored development projects and the progress on reconstruction of IJP Road was also going on at a snail's pace. However, he said current government made it possible to complete it in the stipulated time.

Appreciating the team responsible for the project to complete it on time, the prime minister said the project, previously known as IJ Principal Road, had now been named after Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haidar). He said those nations remained alive and move forward with pride that remembered their martyrs and respected the armed forces.

The May 9 incidents ashamed the whole nation, he said adding the martyrs sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country's security and saved hundreds of thousand children from becoming orphan by making their own children orphans.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates 7th Avenue Interchange on Srinagar Highway.

Representatives of business community call on Bilawal

LAHORE (APP): Several representatives of businessmen and traders called on Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman and Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, here on Wednesday.

The business community and the PPP leader discussed the situation of economy in the country.

Punjab Minister for Industries and Deen Group chairman S.M. Tanveer, United Business

Group chairman and former president Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), former presidents of Federation of Chamber of Commerce Industry (FCCI) Abdul Rauf Alam and Daro Khan, LCCI president Kashif Anwar, Khyber Chamber and Industry president Jawad Kazmi and several divisional representatives of the business community met the PPP chairman.

Countries free to decide about discounted oil imports from Russia: US

WASHINGTON (APP): A U.S. Spokesperson, asked to comment on Pakistan's purchase of discounted Russian oil in Chinese currency, said Tuesday that each country has to make its own choices with respect to its energy imports. "I would say, first of all, with respect to that transaction, we have been very clear that each country has to make its own choices based on its own circumstances in terms of energy imports," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in his daily press briefing in Washington.

"One of the things that I think is notable about that is that - our understanding is that Russian oil was sold at a significant discount to

market rates," he said. In fact, he said it was a sign that the price cap the U.S. imposed on Russian oil has driven down the price for Russian oil, as a result of which it sells well below market prices.

As a result of that strategy, Miller added, "Russia has been prevented from making an additional 100 billion dollars which it could have used in its war machine against Ukraine."

Further asked whether Pakistan consulted with the U.S. before the deal, he said, "I'm not going to speak to any private diplomatic conversations, other than to say that we consult with partners all around the world on these questions."



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PPP changed results after election: Hafiz

KARACHI (Online): JI Karachi Amir Hafiz Naemur Rehman has said such election where people are not allowed to come should be nullified.

"We have won election in 9 towns and 4 towns have been snatched from us. We are in majority. Chairman and vice chairman are with us," he said this while addressing a press conference here Wednesday.

He claimed PPP changed results after election. "We don't want that elected representatives of people are deprived of election through sale or purchase of votes. We don't want to move to court against mayor election. We offer PPP to accept the result.

We will work for de-

velopment of Karachi, he said adding 4 towns have been snatched from us and we will bring back them.

Tomorrow there is election of mayor. We have 193 voters while PPP has 173 voters, he remarked. We don't about PML-N that they have gone for alliance with whom. It is law and democracy that those having 193 members should be allowed to make government.

He underlined PPP should accept our mandate. We will keep working relationship by setting aside all our differences. If some people are made missing then the responsibility for their participation in the election will rest with election commission, he held.

MQM convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Convener MQM and MNA Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has called on Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif and paid him tribute for laying foundation stone of K-4 project.

The two leaders exchanged views on prevailing political situation in the country during the meeting held in PM House on Wednesday.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui thanked the PM for including development projects of Sindh particularly urban areas in the budget for the financial year 2023-24.

Shell Petroleum to sell stake in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Shell Pakistan said on Wednesday that parent Shell had notified it of the group's intent to sell its shareholding in the business.

Shell Petroleum Company (SPCo), the immediate parent company, owns 77 per cent of the local operations, which suffered losses in 2022 due to exchange rates, the devaluation of the Pakistani rupee, and overdue receivables.

113 newly elected LG representatives take oath

NAWABSHAH (APP): One hundred thirteen newly elected representatives of Local Government took the oath of office here Wednesday. Assistant Commissioner Nawabshah Ali Sher Jamali administered oath at Darbar Hall of Deputy Commissioner Secretariat.

Those who took oath include 10 candidates of Town Municipal Committee HM Khoja, 9 of Union Committees of Town Municipal Committee Old Nawabshah of Municipal Corporation Nawabshah and specified candidates of 5 union councils of tehsil Nawabshah.

Khar meets EU parliamentary members, discuss bilateral trade, parliamentary relations

BRUSSELS (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Wednesday met with various members of the European Parliament here, and discussed matters relating to latest regional and bilateral developments.

Hina had a constructive exchange of views with Chair of Delegation for Relations with countries of South Asia Nicola Procaccini. Latest regional developments were the spotlight of discussions.

Agreeing upon enhancing Pak-EU parliamentary cooperation, the both sides stressed that stability in South Asia was imperative for global peace.

Separately, the MoS also held fruitful exchange with Rapporteur of Trade Monitoring Group for South Asia and member Sub-Committee on HR Dr. Maximilian Krah and thanked for constant support to Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to strengthen mutually beneficial trade relations.

In another meeting, Hina Rabbani Khar met Vice

Law Minister says: Cases in military courts to be proceeded as per int'l conventions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday said cases in military courts would be proceeded in accordance with the international conventions.

Talking to journalists here at the Supreme Court, the minister said the accused would have the right for a fair trial in military court. They would have the right to hire a lawyer of their choice and present evidence in their defence.

The accused would also have a right of appeal to the higher courts against the decisions of military courts, he added.

WB approves 200 million dollars aid for Pakistan

WASHINGTON (Online): World Bank (WB) Executive Board has accorded approval to provide aid of 200 million dollars to Pakistan.

This aid will be spent in rehabilitation works in flood affected areas in KP.

Funds will be spent on water supply, roads in rural areas and agriculture related projects. The assistance will also be spent on improving the capability to counter climate change effects.

Police arrest 17 visitors from beaches amid cyclone threat

KARACHI (INP): Police arrested 17 visitors from the coastal locations in Karachi for violation of the Section 144 that was imposed by local administration amid threats of tropical cyclone Biparjoy.

According to the sources, the Commissioner of Karachi imposed ban to bar the citizens from visiting the beaches as preventive measures after the issuance of alerts by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) in this regard.

Police officials said cases had been registered against all the 17 people for defying the Section 144.

'80% people from areas under threat of cyclone Biparjoy shifted to safer places': Nasir

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Local Government Nasir Hussain Shah rejected the allegation of pressure on PTI local chairmen and said that their displeasure is with their leadership, 30/40 members of PTI refused to participate in the voting, after which the difference between the

votes of PPP and Jamaat-e-Islami has increased. Hafiz Naem has mentally elected himself mayor and morally the mayor should belong to the People's Party. In the cyclone situation, CM Sindh himself has issued directives and the Navy, Army, Rangers and district administration are on board. He said this while

have been taken down and as a precautionary measure; all major construction works in Karachi have also been stopped. He added that there is no danger of cloudburst in Cyclone Karachi and caution boards have been installed at development sites and people should follow the SOPs of the administration.

Pak Navy teams evacuate over 1000 people from villages of Chuhar Jamali

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy's Emergency Response Teams have evacuated over 1000 personnel from various remote villages of Chuhar Jamali area during rescue and relief operations at Creeks area amid tropical cyclone Biparjoy.

Pakistan Navy is actively participating in rescue and relief operations at Creeks area in collaboration with the district government, said a statement issued here on Wednesday.

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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Tedious declarations

Monday's National Assembly session was not the civilian leadership's finest hour. In fact, the proceedings inside the house of representatives offered ample evidence of why the political class in general is held in such contempt, and why the public so readily embraces narratives that undermine democracy. The session was the first one after the federal budget had been presented, an occasion normally used to debate the various proposals in this critical financial plan. Certainly, there have been times when such a discussion has been reduced to a formality — that was the case last year, for example, when there was only a lame-duck opposition in the Lower House following the PTI legislators' en masse resignations. This year too, despite the dire economic crisis engulfing Pakistan, only two lawmakers took part in the budget debate. Instead of proving themselves even halfway equal to the job they have been elected for, almost all the lawmakers present devoted their energies elsewhere, making clear their disconnect with the bread-and-butter issues that affect the general public.

And so, reducing the budget to a footnote, the Lower House proceeded to adopt a resolution calling upon the government to immediately initiate proceedings under the Pakistan Army Act against those involved in vandalism of military installations on May 9. Moved by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, the resolution does not name Imran Khan or his party, the PTI, but says there was evidence proving the involvement of "a political party and its chief" in the violent protest "which caused irreparable loss to the state and its institutions". No one can disagree on the need for those involved in the disturbances that day to be brought to justice. But for the minister to use his position and the occasion to vociferously make the demand for such accountability, that too in non-civilian forums, appears unnecessary and out of proportion. Mr Asif, however, is not alone. It is a manifestation of the politicians' skewed priorities — arguably even more pronounced in the wake of the events of May 9 — that many politicians tend towards such exaggerated gestures to demonstrate their allegiance to the security arm of the state. The civilian leadership must get its act together, work to strengthen democratic institutions, and set its priorities straight. That is a more reliable way to ensure political survival, rather than tedious and fulsome proclamations repeated ad nauseam.



Shahzad Sharjeel

The concept of outsourcing has been around for a while. Outsourcing to service providers has been the norm for manufacturers, especially under the globalisation mantra where finance and human resources know no boundaries. American and European automobile and cellular phone manufacturers have shifted most production to China — the same China they accuse of political repression and human rights violations — because it offers cheap labour and subsidised utilities to industry. Concerns about Chinese labour laws and weak environmental protection are forgotten so long as it gives the manufacturers a competitive edge.

Similarly, processing payrolls or medical and legal data entry from all over the world happens in Bangalore and Chennai because these places have invested in human resources and technological development. Just imagine. The worst type of xenophobes here get their 'Sharia-compliant' profits calculated in the land of Shiva in the Indian south. Money is progressive; it has no religion.

The outsourcing of intellect or the appropriation of 'others' inventions while denigrating them as 'heretics' and condemning them to eternal hell has been perfected by oily theocrats. Dare to point out the hypocrisy of the arrangement and you are reminded of the West's crimes of imperialism and slave trade that form the basis of their fortunes.

IPP redux

While benefiting from all the scientific development of the 'godless' and 'soul-less' West, the God-fearing and spiritual holy men in our neck of the woods are quick to point out the 'moral turpitude' of materialistic, modern societies. The objectification of women and the breakdown of the family unit are cited as sure signs of decline. It matters little that a spokesperson of a recently dethroned party presenting itself as the standard bearer of spiritual purity, not too long ago publicly insisted that the vernacular translation of 'prostitute' be used as a synonym for 'widow' because of some archaic and convoluted usage in a particular region.

This same party's leader hit upon the bright idea of outsourcing corruption. It appeared flawless till he got his vendors arrested. This is how it works: allow the wheeling-dealing types to use the 'charismatic leader' to mint money so long as a chunk of it is spent on maintaining his clean-as-a-whistle aura, dirty-rich lifestyle, and equally dirty politics. Get caught with your hand in the cookie jar and the leader will drop you like a hot brick. The sugar and cougar brigade goes to jail while the leader looks for the next ATM.

Back to inventions or lack thereof, the so-called scientists here obsess about making genies produce electricity, become public intellectuals, or acquire fat budgets for fake projects to get foreign inventions licensed to their families. Another lot specialises in tracing every scientific invention to the Muslim scientists of yore to prove that all progress is beholden to us. Yet another very elite group of researchers spends all its time proving every technological breakthrough under the sun as having at least one member be-

longing to some Pakistani ethnicity among the thousands-strong team of gofers behind the invention.

We have also had no qualms about not just crowdfunding and appropriating the most sensitive and potentially lethal technology but open-sourcing it to the larger detriment of mankind. Some insist on continuing in this vein till the Kohinoor comes 'home'. How interesting that things come full circle even in subjects seemingly poles apart — from offshore accounting to customer care call centres in Chennai to the celebrated Mountain of Light diamond's origins in the Golconda mines of southern India. Amidst all this East-West controversy, the prospects of South-South cooperation can open up vistas where 'going south' need not necessarily mean a downward trend. This leaves the northern hemisphere sticking out like a sore thumb — at least in some people's imaginations — as the hub of conspiracies and the nub of regime-change plots. Outsource the blame for poor economic management to the IFIs, and the power play between components of the state to foreign conspiracies. As for the fourth estate, the least said the better. It is tethered to estate agents.

A few decades back, we tried outsourcing the country's power production to the IPPs. A new conglomerate has been launched in the 'power' sector, this time referred to as Independent Power Purchasers. The regulators better determine the unit cost and capacity charge wisely and in the public interest this time, lest the new IPP gets embroiled in the same old battles with the 'oily and gassy regulatory authority' and the 'nation transformation company'. — Courtesy Dawn

Italian trendsetter



Mahir Ali

Well before global politics featured the likes of Trump, Bolsonaro, Orban, Erdogan, Imran Khan, Modi or even Netanyahu, there was Silvio Berlusconi, the slick and smarmy business magnate who was first elected prime minister of Italy in 1994, just months after founding his political party, Forza Italia.

That government lasted less than a year, and some dismissed him as a flash in the pizza pan, but when he returned to power in 2001, it was at the helm of the first postwar Italian government that was able to serve out a five-year term. Small wonder, then, that admirers and detractors alike have been describing Berlusconi as the end of an era. But, like some of the political obituaries that greeted the end of his first and second stints as PM, that assessment may be premature. He returned in that role for a third time in 2008, but then was barred from holding political office for several years after he resigned in 2011, and by the time he returned to the fray in 2018, the ground had shifted. The octogenarian found himself being treated as a relic on a playfield he had landscaped by aiding the far right's ascent into the conservative mainstream.

Giorgia Meloni had served a decade earlier as a junior minister in Berlusconi's last administration. Since last year, when he was re-elected to the senate, his Forza Italia has been a minor partner in Meloni's governing coalition.

Berlusconi acknowledged as much in a 2019 speech: "It was us who legitimised and

constitutionalised the Lega [the former Northern League] and the fascists [the Meloni-led Brothers of Italy]." Back in 1996, in a profile of the Italian leader, the American writer and journalist Alexander Stille noted: "Imagine if a real-estate mogul along the lines of Donald Trump also owned CBS, NBC, the Fox network, Paramount Pictures, Newsweek, Random House, Condé Nast, The Los Angeles Times, HBO, the Dallas Cowboys, Walmart stores, Aetna insurance, Loews Theatres and Fidelity Investments and had the political clout of Bill Clinton or Newt Gingrich, and you get an idea of the long shadow Mr Berlusconi casts in Italian life."

Unlike Trump, Berlusconi started from scratch, building up first a real estate empire — the sources of his funding remain obscure — and then a commercial TV network that brought American soap operas and "reality" shows featuring semi-clad women to Italian audiences accustomed to more drab presentations. He invested his rapidly increasing wealth in a couple of national newspapers and a vast array of magazines, as well as AC Milan.

So he was hardly unknown by the time he went into politics 30 years ago, after Italy's party political structure began to collapse under the weight of a wide range of corruption investigations. That structure had effectively been in place since the immediate postwar era, when the CIA intervened to make sure that the Italian Communist Party did not win any elections. The Christian Democrats were the main beneficiaries, with the Socialists playing second fiddle. It was a Socialist prime minister, however, who became a crucial patron for Berlusconi in the 1980s: Bettino Craxi eventually fled Italy to a villa in Tunisia, in order to escape

the consequences of his shenanigans while in power. Italians were fed up, and expected to lean leftwards, by the time Forza Italia emerged. Berlusconi was motivated to a considerable extent by the desire to protect his still expanding empire, and offered himself up to voters as a solution to Italy's woes on the strength of his personality, rather than any coherent political programme. That may not have been an entirely original leadership attribute, but it was relatively a novelty in Western democracies and, notwithstanding the occasional backlash, appears now to have been more or less normalised. Berlusconi's final term may have laid bare his economic incompetence in the face of the global financial crisis and European debt woes, but he's much more likely to be remembered for the level of sleaze he unapologetically introduced into politics, and a penchant for making sexist or racist remarks that he invariably dismissed as "jokes". Even a reported predilection for sex with underage girls caused insufficient alarm among the Italian public. Berlusconi saw himself as a celebrity role model for all Italian men, and even for world leaders — and, sadly, he wasn't wrong in some respects. He ignored constant conflicts of interest, and thrived on narcissism — with facelifts, hair implants and an unnatural tangerine glow enabling him, at least in his own mind, to disguise the fact that he was born when Benito Mussolini still ruled Italy. His enduring legacy what Stille summed up this week as a kind of postmodern, "content-less politics", which, one might add, serves the neoliberal status quo as an invaluable distraction. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

France provides Euro 180m for NTDC transmission lines, grid stations projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Credit Facility Agreement, said a press release issued here Wednesday. This loan will support the NTDC in its transmission mandate to provide reliable and efficient power supply in major cities of Punjab. The funding will also help enhance the transmission of efficient power distribution in Pakistan. Such benefits will contribute to improving affordability and scaling up the energy supply. Since most of the power generation in the

country is through the hydel sources, hence the projects will help mitigate impacts of climate change through transmission of green energy, in line with the policies of the Government of Pakistan and its commitment to fight climate change.

It is also part of the pledge and commitments announced by France at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva on January 9, 2023.

The Republic of

France, through the French Development Agency, is providing technical and financial support in several sectors such as energy, water and sanitation, urban development, and cultural heritage. The French loan will support NTDC in the components of the projects including: Construction of a new 220kV substation and 50km of new 220kV transmission lines to be connected to it in Aarifiwala, which will be connected to the MEPCO grid.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on Civil Aviation issues, at Finance Division.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairman Reforms and Reduces Mobilization Committee Ashfaq Yousuf Tola addressing to the post budget session at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Alashabi says: Banking, trade routes, removing policy barriers can increase direct trade

LAHORE (APP): between Yemen and Pakistan. Alashabi also commended the city of Lahore for its stature as a bustling metropolis and a thriving market. Recognizing Pakistan as a significant market, he acknowledged the existing direct and indirect trade channels that Yemen maintained via Jeddah, Muscat, and Dubai. He also spoke about the impact of conflict in Yemen over the years, and exuded hope in overcoming these challenges and restoring stability.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, PS-Pelican and Scarabe carrying 27,999 tonnes of Palm oil and 53,000 tonnes of Coal, berthed at Oil Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, oil tanker Demeter and bulk cargo carrier Butinah sailed out to sea on Wednesday (today) morning on Wednesday.

A cargo Volume of 51,679 tonnes, comprising 51,679 tonnes imports Cargo exclusively, was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

Dar for supporting Aviation Sector

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday committed to support the Aviation Sector and directed to take pertinent measures to resume flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to the US, UK and the Europe at the earliest.

The minister chaired a meeting on Civil Aviation issues, which was also attended by the Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator

Azam Nazir Tarar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq Bajwa and Mansoor Usman Awan Attorney General of Pakistan, the Secretary Aviation, Secretary Law and Justice DG CAA, DG ASE, and senior officers from Finance and Aviation attended the meeting, said a press release.

The secretary Aviation briefed the Chair on the issues being faced by the aviation sector pertaining to regulation, service provision, security, and enhancement of state capacity in aviation.

Senate body on Finance reviews proposed changes in Customs Tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, led by Chairman Committee, Senator Saleem Mandviwala, conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed changes in the first schedule to the Customs Act, 1969 (Pakistan Customs Tariff).

The meeting took place on Wednesday at the Parliament House, where senior officials from the National Tariff Commission (NTC), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and Ministry of

Commerce presented their insights regarding the rationale behind the proposed amendments.

During the meeting, a clause-by-clause review of the proposals and changes in customs duties for various items and raw materials was conducted. Chairman Senator Saleem Mandviwala emphasized the importance of ensuring that any relief or concessions provided to businesses in terms of duties should be passed on to the customers through a decrease in prices.

Govt. giving consideration to promote agro-based economy: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for National Food Security, Tariq Bashir Cheema on Wednesday said the government is giving consideration to the promotion of agro-based economy. Participating in the general discussion on the budget for the year 2023-24, he recognized the crucial role of the agricultural sector in the country's economy and said that its importance cannot be denied.

Cheema highlighted the significant increase in wheat production during

the current season, leading to a bumper crop.

He further mentioned that Pakistan was also an exporter of rice and anticipates a similarly robust rice crop. These achievements underscore the potential of the agricultural sector to contribute to the nation's prosperity. Furthermore, the minister addressed the pressing issue of energy in agriculture by sharing that the current budget includes allocations for the solarization of tubewells. A meeting, presided over by

the Prime Minister will discuss the allocation of funds for this initiative across different provinces, including the conversion of tube-wells, he added. Cheema acknowledged the efforts made by the Sindh government in assisting farmers affected by devastating floods last year. However, he expressed his intention to request further assistance from the government of Sindh to address the challenges faced by the remaining flood-affected areas.

Rupee gains 79 paises against US Dollar in interbank

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday strengthened by 79 paises against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs 287.18 against the previous day's closing of Rs 287.97.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 292 and Rs 295 respectively.

PCJCCI for effective measures to tackle climate change

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Wednesday called for taking effective measures to cope with the climatic challenges.

Sharing his views on climate change in a meeting held here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Wednesday, the joint chamber's President Moazzam Ghurki said that despite contributing less than one percent of global emissions, Pakistan was among the top 10 countries

most affected by the climatic impacts in the past two decades. He added that Pakistan's agriculture-based economy was sensitive to climate-related shocks, and disasters could exacerbate the water security challenges. PCJCCI President said that according to the official post-disaster needs assessment (PDMA) 2022, the damages and losses were USD 14.9 billion and USD 15.3 billion respectively, with roughly 33 million people affected, of which 8 million.

Thalassemia suffering children Donating blood is a great act of kindness

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, donated blood for Thalassemia patients in blood camp organized by Sundas Foundation on the occasion of World Blood Donors Day here at Governor House Lahore today. Apart from Governor Punjab, the staff of Governor House and general public also donated blood. President Sundus Foundation Muhammad Yasin Khan, Medical Director Sundus Foundation Dr. Adnan Gilani, Sundus Foundation staff, blood donor students

and others were present on this occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that donating blood for innocent children suffering from thalassemia is a great act of kindness. He said that serving people suffering from life-threatening diseases is no less than worship. He said that it is the responsibility of all of us to bring a smile on the faces of such people. He further said that we should donate blood for this good cause. He said that due to blood donations millions of

patients get new lives every year. Governor Punjab said that donating blood is harmless for a healthy person, while it saves the life of some one. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Sundus Foundation is doing great work for Thalassemia and Hemophilia patients. He further said that Awareness should be raised among the people to prevent thalassemia. He said that the media should also play a positive role in creating awareness among the people regarding donating blood.



PESHAWAR: Head of Delegation International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Nicolas Lambert meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Minister says: Improving medical facilities in public hospitals top priority

Independent Report
SIALKOT: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr. Jamal Nasir has said that improving medical facilities in government hospitals was the top priority and the problems of district, tehsil level and primary health centers would be resolved at earliest. Cases will be reviewed for approval of development projects, posts of doctors and medical staff in government hospitals of district Sialkot.

during his visit to various areas of Sialkot district. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health expressed satisfaction over the performance of the District Health Authority and appreciated the Deputy Commissioner Adnan Mehmood Awan and the District Health Management Team for their effective supervision. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Dr. Rehan, Principal Khawaja Muhammad Safdar Medical College Sialkot Dr. Abdul Sattar and MS Dr. Ilyas were also present. Meanwhile, the

Caretaker Provincial Health Minister also visited Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital Sialkot and Civil Hospital Sambrial. He inspected the emergency ward, surgical ward, lab and issued instructions to improve the facilities. Dr. Jamal Nasir directed to issue notices to the laboratory supervisors both hospitals for not maintaining quality control standards in the lab. He directed that the patients should be prescribed the medicines available in the hospital stores, and attention should be paid to improve the quality of the tests.

QWP calls for early announcement of NFC Award

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial chairman, Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao has called for an early announcement of the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award with the increased share of small provinces.

He expressed these views while addressing a joining ceremony at village Sherpao on Wednesday. On this occasion, the leading workers of PTI Union Council Lower Behram Haji Gul, Mohammad Zareen, Saleem Khan, Juma Gul, Waseemullah, Zahid Khan, Muhibullah, Khan Gulab, Farhad Khan, Isa Khan, Osman Khan, Saheb Noor and Khanzada Haji along with their families and

associates announced to join Qaumi Watan Party. Sikandar Sherpao said due to the incompetence of the previous rulers, the province is the victim of financial instability and the economic crisis is looming here. The policies of the previous government have not only affected the people and economy of the province but rather have also increased backwardness to an extent. He said that keeping in view the current situation the federal government should not only hand over the net profit on electricity net profit to the province, rather also take steps to increase the shares of small provinces by ensuring the early holding of the NFC.



LAHORE: Students of Kinnaird College for Women taking keen interest in Textile Exhibition at Al-Hamra Art Gallery.

ANF seizes over 161 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in six operations conducted across the country managed to net four accused and recovered over 161 kg drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation near Gujranwala Toll Plaza, ANF recovered 93.6 kg charras concealed in secret cavities of a vehicle and arrested two drug smugglers, residents of Khyber. In another operation near Kuchlak bypass Quetta, ANF seized 50 kg heroin concealed in a dry rainy nullah.

In third operation conducted near 'Jarhoi Zakha Khail' area, eight kg charras concealed in plastic bags was seized. The spokesman informed that in fourth operation in Mianwali, ANF managed to recover 1.2 kg opium and 40 grams charras from the possession of a motorcyclist resident of Bhakkar. In the fifth operation conducted at Pakistan International Container Terminal, Karachi, ANF recovered five kg Ice drug concealed in decoration pieces. The container was booked for Australia by a Peshawar-based private company. In the sixth operation conducted at Pak-Afghan Border area in Chaman, ANF recovered four kg suspicious material from the possession.

Rally held in favor of Pak Army

LARKANA (APP): Pakistan Patriotic Movement Zindabad Organization Larkana here on Wednesday took out a rally to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army. The rally which started from Dargah Qaim Shah Bukhari, concluded at Larkana Press Club after passing through Bunder Road, Pakistan Chowk and Jinnah Bagh Chowk. The rally was led by Central Chairman of the Organization Liaquat Abro and was participated by Nazim Alim Younis Ali Abro, Raja Munir Jatoi Abdul Karim Jatoi and others.

The participants of the rally were holding placards, national flags and banners, chanting slogans in favor of the Pak Army and the country. Addressing on the occasion, the leaders of the Organization said that the workers of a political party organized a protest in Punjab and KPK. As part of the conspiracy, stones were pelted at the soldiers of the Pakistan Army and government buildings besides burning the vehicles.

Eight dengue cases reported this year

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as eight dengue-positive cases had been reported in the Rawalpindi district this year, but there was a need to remain vigilant to control the spread of the fatal disease as the prevailing weather was suitable for breeding larvae.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control Dr Sajjad Mehmood told APP, that four patients were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital, three to the Holy Family Hospital, and one to the Shifa International Hospital. Giving details of the punitive actions, the health officer said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 107 FIRs, sealed 62 premises.

Two killed, one injured in road accident

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were killed, while another sustained serious injuries in a road mishap in the area of Chak Jhumra police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Wednesday that a speeding dumper truck hit a motorcycle near Nallaywala bridge late Tuesday night. Consequently, Saqlain Ejaz (22).



PESHAWAR: People receiving vaccination at a Haj center in Peshawar, Hayatabad.

IPO-Pakistan launches e-filing of IP applications

LAHORE (APP): Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) in collaboration with Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) launched e-filing system to receive Intellectual Property (IP) applications from the stakeholders in a ceremony held here at Arfa Karim Software Technology Park on Wednesday. IPO Director General Shazia Adnan and PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf announced the GO-LIVE of Trade Mark™ Online Filing System with online payment. This initiative

would ensure improved services in addition to the filing of trademark applications online, leading to cost and time saving for the applicants besides ensuring convenience. On this occasion, the IPO DG Shazia Adnan said that Intellectual Property Organisation of Pakistan was committed to provide hassle-free services to its stakeholders, adding that digitisation process involved tireless efforts by IT teams of the IPO-Pakistan and the PITB. Shazia Adnan said with the launch of GO-LIVE system of online IP applications filing.

International News

Xi hails establishment of 'China-Palestine strategic' ties

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that his country was establishing "strategic" relations with Palestinians ahead of talks with leader Mahmud Abbas in Beijing. Abbas will be in the Chinese capital until Friday, Beijing has said, on his fifth official visit to the world's second-largest economy.

day to hold talks with top Chinese leaders including President Xi and Premier Li Qiang. The two sides are using the opportunity to discuss ways to advance relations and resolve longstanding challenges to the Palestinian-Israeli relationship. Beijing has sought to boost its ties in the Middle East, challenging US influence — efforts that have sparked unease in Washington.

tor in the Middle East, brokering the restoration of ties in March between Iran and Saudi Arabia — rivals in a region where the United States has for decades been the main powerbroker. But finding a lasting solution to Israeli-Palestinian tensions may prove more elusive, as peace negotiations between the two sides have been stalled since 2014.

"Facing a century of global changes and new developments to the situation in the Middle East, China is ready to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Palestinian side," said Xi during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

During a regular press briefing last week, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called long-time Palestinian leader Abbas an "old and good friend of the Chinese people".

In April, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told his Israeli and Palestinian counterparts that his country was willing to aid peace negotiations, Xinhua reported. And Qin told Palestinian foreign minister Riyad Al-Maliki that Beijing supports the resumption of talks as soon as possible, according to the state news agency.

"Today, we will jointly announce the establishment of a China-Palestine strategic partnership, which will be an important milestone in the history of bilateral relations," added Xi. Abbas arrived in Beijing on Monday to hold talks with top Chinese leaders including President Xi and Premier Li Qiang.

Beijing has since positioned itself as a mediator in the Middle East, brokering the restoration of ties in March between Iran and Saudi Arabia — rivals in a region where the United States has for decades been the main powerbroker.

Qin emphasized China's push for peace talks on the basis of implementing a "two-state solution".



China's President Xi Jinping (C) and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas attend a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Kuwait strikes \$367 million deal to acquire Turkish-made combat drones

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Kuwait reached an agreement worth \$367 million with Turkish drone giant Baykar to purchase its increasingly sought-after TB2 combat drones, the Kuwaiti army said.

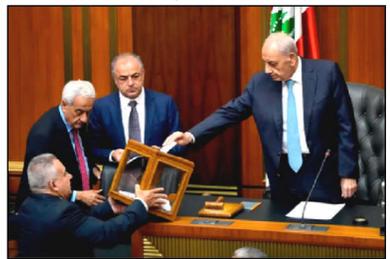
The drone, Bayraktar TB2, boasts unmanned aerial vehicles that can carry lightweight, laser-guided bombs, and fly for up to 27 hours at a time, which, according to the company, was "a record," it had set while testing the drone in Kuwait in 2019.

der \$2 million each according to estimates. They are produced by Baykar Defense company, which belongs to the family of Selcuk Bayraktar, the son-in-law of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Bayraktar is the company's chief technical officer. The TB2 has been credited with helping tip the balance of conflicts in Libya, as well as to Turkey's ally Azerbaijan in fighting with Armenian-backed forces in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in 2020. It has also enabled Ukraine to mount a stiff defense of its cities, carrying out attacks against Russian forces with an effectiveness that surprised many Western military experts and triggered a rush among nations to procure the unmanned craft.

Belarus starts taking delivery of Russian nuclear weapons

Monitoring Desk
MINSK: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has said his country has started taking delivery of Russian tactical nuclear weapons, some of which he said were three times more powerful than the atomic bombs the US dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The deployment is Moscow's first move of such warheads - shorter-range less powerful nuclear weapons that could potentially be used on the battlefield - outside Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Lukashenko said in an interview with the Rossiya-1 Russian state TV channel which was posted on the Belarusian Belta state news agency's Telegram channel. "The bombs are three times more powerful than those (dropped) on Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he said, speaking on a road in a forest clearing with military vehicles parked nearby and some kind of military storage facility visible in the background. Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia, which will retain control of the tactical nuclear weapons, would start deploying them in Belarus after special storage facilities to house them were made ready.



Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri casts his vote as parliament gathers to elect a president at the parliament building in downtown Beirut, Lebanon.

Turkiye won't back Swedish Nato bid unless it stops anti-Turkish protests: Erdogan

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Sweden should not expect a change of attitude from Ankara on its Nato membership bid at the Western alliance's summit next month unless it prevents anti-Turkish protests in Stockholm, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Erdogan was quoted as telling reporters on a flight returning from Azerbaijan on Tuesday. Erdogan made his comments before officials from Turkiye, Sweden, Finland and Nato met on Wednesday in Ankara for talks to try to overcome Turkish objections that have delayed Sweden's NATO membership bid.

Turkiye cannot approach Sweden's Nato bid positively while "terrorists" were protesting in Stockholm, and Turkiye's position would be made clear once again in talks with Swedish officials in Ankara on Wednesday.

In March, Turkiye ratified Finland's bid for membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, but still objects to Sweden joining the alliance, as does Hungary.

9 killed in latest clash between ethnic groups in India's Manipur: police

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least nine people have been killed in the latest clashes between members of rival ethnic groups in India's northeastern state of Manipur, police said on Wednesday, as security forces pressed on with a hunt for illegal weapons.

Violence between members of the Kuki ethnic group, who mostly live in the hills, and Meiteis, the dominant community in the low lands, erupted on May 3, sparked by resentment over economic benefits and quotas in government jobs and education reserved for hill people.

U.N. nuclear chief delays visit to Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: U.N. nuclear chief Rafael Grossi has delayed a planned trip to Ukraine's Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant until it is safer to travel, a senior Ukrainian government official said on Wednesday.

At least 80 people have been killed and more than 40,000 have been displaced in the state on the Myanmar border that is governed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party.

IFB SO(G) Edu. E&A/Pro-REG-DIS(FUR)/2022-23
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY DEPARTMENT
Date: 14-06-2023
CORRIGENDUM

- In continuation of this department advertisement NO: SO(G) Edu. E&A/Pro-REG-DIS(FUR)/2022-23 Dated: 31-05-2023 published in various NEWS papers regarding procurement of Furniture & Fixture for Primary / Elementary / Secondary school of Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur & Larkana Region the procuring agency is pleased to issue amendments / additions / deletions are made in the tender documents.
- A complete set of bidding document may be purchased w.e.f from 15-06-2023 upto 03-07-2023 during office hours by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (PDR) School Education & Literacy Department upon payment of nonrefundable fee in shape of Demand Draft or Pay Order in favour of Section Officer (G-I) School Education & Literacy Department, 2nd Floor Old KDA building, Sindh Secretariat No.03, Kamal Atta Turk Road, Karachi.
- The Sealed Bids must be delivered on or before 04-07-2023 at 3.00 pm.
- The date of Bid opening is 04-07-2023 at 3.30 pm.
- All other terms & conditions shall remain the same.

Section officer (G) / DDO
First Floor, Sindh Secretariat No, 2
Karachi
INF/KRY NO.: 2023/2494



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the participants of National Conference—Local Democracy Moving Forward for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan.

NA Speaker says: Accelerating SDGs implementation crucial for sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf, emphasized the significance of focusing on the policies, processes, and challenges related to the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan and assured full support from parliament to facilitate the legislative processes for achieving the SDGs Agenda 2030.

Speaking at the National Conference titled "Empowered Local Governments—Moving Forward to Accelerate the Implementation of Agenda 2030" organized by Lead for SDGs in Islamabad, the Speaker highlighted the need to accelerate SDGs implementation in the country. He acknowledged the substantial progress made by Pakistan in defining national strategies, development plans, and institutional reforms to

achieve the SDGs. The Speaker commended the efforts of the SDGs Task Force, led by Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, emphasizing the pivotal role of localizing SDGs for the socio-economic development of the country. He assured support from parliamentarians at all levels, including the National, Provincial, and local governments, to facilitate the legislative processes for achieving the SDGs Agenda 2030.

Salute martyrs for their sacrifices, families for their patience: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday condecorated with the family members of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced martyrdom for the country.

He saluted the martyrs and their families on their passion for sacrifice. He also paid tributes to the martyrs for sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country's security.

He telephoned the family members of the soldiers who were martyred in

Miran Shah on June 9.

The president talked to the family members of Subedar Asghar Shaheed, Sepoy Naseem Shaheed, and Muhammad Zaman Shaheed. He also telephoned the family members of Sepoy Saqib ur Rehman who embraced martyrdom in Haider Khel on May 31.

Paying tributes to the services and sacrifices of the martyrs for their country, President Alvi thanked the families of the martyrs on behalf of the nation.

Excise & Taxation dept collects Rs.17.5 million taxes during campaign

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Excise and Taxation Department collected taxes amounting to Rs.17.5 million during road checking campaign for collection of outstanding taxes.

The Sindh Minister for Excise, Taxation and Anti Narcotics, Mukesh Kumar Chawla informed, in a statement issued here on Wednesday, that road checking campaign was started on June 5, 2023 to collect outstanding tax from defaulting vehicle owners and it would continue for two more days.

He informed that a total of 19,039 vehicles were checked across the province till the ninth day of the road checking campaign. As per details, 3901 vehicles were checked in Karachi, 5614 in Hyderabad, 2236 in Sukkur, 2311 in Larkana, 1749 in Mirpur Khas and 3228 in Sindh Benazirabad. During the road checking campaign, 1048 vehicles were seized and documents of 1477 vehicles were confiscated, he added. The provincial minister requested the owners of tax-defaulting vehicles to submit their taxes at the earliest.

Sindh Livestock, Fisheries Secretary for adopting latest technology to increase meat, dairy products

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Secretary for Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Hafeez Ahmed Sial has emphasized the need of adopting the latest technologies in order to increase meat and dairy products in the livestock sector of the province.

He emphasized while visiting the Semen Production Unit and Artificial Insemination Centre Tando Jam on Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Convener MQM and MNA Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Minister visits relief camps in different areas of Badin

BADIN (APP): Sindh Minister for Universities Board and Environment Muhammad Ismail Raho along with Deputy Commissioner Badin

Agha Shah Nawaz Khan and MPA Haji Taj Malah on Wednesday visited different relief camps including Serani and Bhugra Memon and inquired about facilities being provided to people.

The Provincial Minister on the occasion distributed food among people accommodated in relief camps.

He said that the Sindh Government on the directives of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and co-

Chairman Asif Ali Zardari was providing basic facilities to people living in relief camps.

He further said that elected representatives of this area will be present around the clock to serve destitute people.

Deputy Commissioner Agha Shah Nawaz giving a briefing said that food, drinking water, and all health facilities were provided to all relief camps while the availability of Doctors and Paramedical staff was also ensured.

He said that fumigation spray is being carried out in camps on a daily basis while in case of electricity failure generators are also kept on standby.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi presiding over a Webinar organized by Asian Ombudsman Association

CTD arrests TTP workers

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and an intelligence agency in an operation arrested two alleged activists of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) when they were funding for their organization.

According to a spokesman for CTD on Wednesday, the accused were arrested from New Karachi Industrial Area and Shershah. They were identified as Fazal-ur-Rehman and Raheem Afridi. The agencies also recovered funding cash Rs. 40,900 from their possession and literature.

Both arrested were trained militants. They were collecting funds on the instructions of their commander Saifullah alias Gulai of South Waziristan for financial assistance to the families of killed TTP terrorists and others on Eid.

KMC to offer three new post graduate programs

SUKKUR (APP): A team from the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan visited Khaipur Medical College (KMC) to credit its three units for a post-graduation training programme on Wednesday.

The team comprising Prof. Dr Hakim Abro, Prof. Dr Zafar, Prof. Dr Rafiq Ahmed and Prof. Dr Muhammad Ashraf visited Medicine Unit-11, Orthopedic and Neurosurgery departments of the KMC to credit these three departments for postgraduate degrees.

Admin to utilize resources to remove offal during Eid ul Azha

SUKKUR (APP): Sukkur District Administration would utilize all available resources to remove offal and entrails on coming Eid ul Azha as a comprehensive plan has been formulated for Sukkur district.

According to Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sukkur, Dr Shahzad Thaheem, while talking to APP on Wednesday, nearly 2000 sanitary workers would be deployed to complete the cleanliness operation during Eid ul Azha holidays.

Sukkur police recovered 200 buffaloes worth Rs.66 million

SUKKUR (APP): Sukkur police recovered 200 buffaloes worth of Rs.66 million from Bagarji riverine area of Sukkur.

DIG Sukkur Javed Sonharo Jiskani and SSP Sukkur Sanghaar Malik while addressing a press conference here on Wednesday said that Sukkur Police had launched an operation in the Bagarji riverine area and recovered the 200 buffaloes worth of Rs.66 million, which were snatched by the bandits three months ago from Katchi Jhalwai Kalwari of Bagarji of district Sukkur.

They snatched buffaloes from Abdul Majid Kalwar and Mazhar Ali Kalwar, nephews of Mazhar Ali Kalwar.

Economic revival: Khawaja Asif for getting rid of sick organizations, stopping tax evasion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday stressed the need for getting rid of sick organizations and taking effective measures to stop the billions of rupees tax evasion, causing a constant dent to the national economy. Participating in the National Assembly debate for the budget 2023-24, he said giving the life-support and keep-pumping the financial resources to the deadwoods was the 'crime against the state,' being committed since long.

He said the incumbent government, under the leadership of Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif, tried to give 'beyond the possibility' relief to the common man despite the severe financial challenges, and in his view it remained successful to some extent. The minister highlighted financial hardships of the public due to prevailing economic situation in the country and increased inflation, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar tried his best to 'possible the impossible' within the limited resources but there was dire need to strengthen the national economy with corrective measures.

He said the government had to pay a huge interest amount against the loans which was higher than

the 'federal receipts.' Khawaja Asif said the government would have to get rid of the sick organization, citing examples of two such departments [without taking their names] of which debt was over Rs 1000 billion but they were being carried forward for reasons beyond understanding. Their early disposal would be better for the country, he added. "Billions of rupees are being spent on such organizations sick to keep them alive and pumping the dead ones whose survival is impossible. It is a crime against the state," he said, adding the CEO and COO of the departments, supposed to alleviate poverty

from the country, were getting Rs 300,000-350,000 monthly salaries while holding their positions intact on stay orders of the courts. The minister said revenue collection was the major source of the country's income, but it was unfortunate that billions of rupees tax evasion was taking place. Citing examples of some sectors, he said in the real estate around Rs 500 billion tax was evaded with under-invoicing and on account of land evaluation, Rs 240 billion in tobacco sector as two foreign companies were paying 99 percent tax and rest of the companies which constituted 40 percent paid only 1 per cent.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inspecting cleanliness work of Gujr Nullah Federal B Area.

Cash reward for police party for killing suspect in encounter

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) Javed Alam Odho on Wednesday announced a cash reward for a police party for killing the accused involved in killing two policemen in Sohrab Goth.

On June 10, one of the suspects involved in killing two cops in Sohrab Goth was gunned down by a police party at Sohrab Goth police station in an encounter. The killed suspect was identified as Shar Abuddin, son of Gul Muhammad.

Police Chief felicitated the team of Sohrab Goth police station for their excellent professional performance and also announced certificates of appreciation and cash rewards.

Two girls tortured by stepmother in Karachi, rescued

KARACHI (INP): Police on Wednesday claimed to have recovered two girls who were being subjected to brutal torture by their stepmother and father in Karachi.

As per details, a stepmother resorted to such brutal torture on two girls Kainat and Khushi that ultimately led the neighbors to call out the police for rescue in Malir's Aasu Goth. Upon arrival, it was seen that the children were tied down on the roof of the house in scorching heat, the police said and added the bodies of girls also had scars of burn indicating that they were intentionally burnt.

Heavy falls, stormy winds likely in South eastern Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The meteorological department, on Wednesday, forecast widespread thunderstorm rain with some heavy falls and squally winds in coastal and south-eastern districts of Sindh while weather will remain hot and partly cloudy over most parts of the province. According to Regional Meteorological Centre Karachi, under the influence of cyclone storm 'Biparjov', southeastern parts of Sindh particularly Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Tharparker, Mirpurkhas and Umerkot districts may receive widespread wind, dust or thunderstorm rain with some very heavy to extremely heavy falls accompanied with squally winds of 80 to 100km/hour gusting 120km/hour during coming 24 hours.

KMC renovates Sakhi Hasan Chowrangi: Administrator Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman has said that Sakhi Hasan Chowrangi is the main center of Central District which has been renovated and beautified planting greenery under the flyover is a difficult task but KMC making it possible by hard work.

Greenery in the city is essential to prevent the rise in temperature due to climate change, he said while inaugurating the newly renovated Sakhi Hasan Chowrangi in North Nazimabad on Wednesday.

Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan and other officers were also present on this occasion.

Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that there was a large amount of debris and structures accumulated on Sakhi Hasan Chowrangi, which has been removed and the ground has been leveled and a large number of Malaysian palm trees and other flowering plants have been planted.

Water supply was a big problem here, which has

been solved by using sewerage water. Lighting has also been arranged for the convenience of people, he said.

The Administrator said that KMC will continue to take measures to make the city beautiful and green, he said that the trees and plants planted in Kidney Hill Park, Bagh-e-Karachi, Pak China Friendship Park and other places should play the role of oxygen tank for Karachi and thanks to them, there will be a significant reduction in environmental pollution.

The citizens of Karachi have to protect this greenery and support the local bodies to increase it further, we all together make our city beautiful and green, he added. In response to a question, he said that before the monsoon rains, the process of cleaning the choking points in the stormwater drains is going on, but the citizens also have the responsibility to avoid throwing garbage in these drains which are natural channels for stormwater drainage.

Administrator reviews situation of drains

KARACHI (APP): Administrator DMC East, Syed Shakeel Ahmed visited various areas of Safoora in view of the expected rains and reviewed the condition of drains and also inspected the pre-installed dewatering pumps.

He inspected Chishti Nagar Nullah, Habib University Nullah, Johar Complex Nullah, Songal Goth Nullah, Sikandar Goth Nullah and the installation of de-watering pumps at Federal Urdu University and various places.

He further said that maximum measures

should be taken to clean the drains by utilizing the available time before the expected rainy season while where there is a need for the winching of sewerage lines, the water and sewerage board should be contacted to ensure the performing the said works.

He expressed satisfaction over the installation of dewatering pumps at Urdu University and other places and said that the installation of dewatering pumps at important places would help in quick drainage in case of heavy rains.

Operation underway to recover Pirya Kumari: SSP Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): SSP Sukkur Sanghaar Malik has said that operation was underway to recover 7-year-old girl Pirya Kumari, missing since August 18, 2021 from Sangrar area, when she was running a 'Sabeel' on Ashura in Sukkur.

During a press conference on Wednesday, while responding to a question about the kidnapping of a Pirya Kumari, he said that Pirya Kumari's family did not cooperate. He said that as soon as Pirya Kumari's

relatives were detained, they were asked to free them.

He said that mobile phones were off due to 10 Muharram, when the Pirya Kumari kidnapping incident happened.

He said that operations were carried out in Sindh and Balochistan for the recovery of Pirya Kumari, while operation is also being carried out in Punjab, and 300 suspects detained to recover Pirya Kumari.



HYDERABAD: People filling their pots with clean water from Filter plant at Latifabad.